

Ivory carvings of birds



Thule culture birds, largest 5.9 cm

These carvings of ducks and other birds are usually rather plain and undecorated. Many were drilled at the tail end so that they could be kept together by stringing on a length of cord. Their exact functions are unclear but they were probably used as toys or as game pieces.



Bruce White photos

Loon with a hole through the tail portion, and an indication that the carving was previously attached at the bottom, in which the remnant of an ivory peg is inserted at an angle in a hole. St. Lawrence Island, 9 cm